

BERT CREEK LIMITED ACCESS TIMBER SALE

July 17, 2006 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Anaconda Unit (SWLO) – 2 sections approximately 5 miles east and 10 miles Southwest of Drummond, Montana.
- Granite County – Section 36, T10N, R14W; Section 36, T11N, R12W.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 6,665 tons (921 MBF) with a negotiated value of \$174,956.00.
- In addition to the negotiated stumpage value, a fee of \$2.25/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 100% Common School
- 7.23 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- Silvicultural prescriptions include: commercial thinning, individual leave tree selection, group selection, and shelterwood harvest. Leave tree density would be variable between 20 and 100 square feet of basal area. This will promote regeneration and move the stands toward more historical conditions. Total harvest area is 196 acres. The trees show evidence of drought related stress with Douglas-fir Bark Beetles and Western Spruce Budworm in moderate amounts throughout the section.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 71% tractor; 29% cable.

Road Construction:

- Approximately 2.15 miles of new road construction is required to access the harvest units. Road construction would meet current BMP requirements.

Public Involvement & Scoping:

- The Sale was scoped in March 2004. External comments were received from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Sun Mountain Lumber, and adjacent landowner Dalton Morse. The issues raised were streams, roads, and grazing. The landowner who controls access would only allow Sun Mountain Lumber access across his land.

Issues and Mitigations:

- **Streams** – there is one short (500') class 2 SMZ segment which has no connectivity to another stream, lake or other body of water within the project area and no streams need to be crossed by the access road.
- **Road Use/Access/Construction** – Access to the sale is across existing roads through private property. The potential Purchaser has a signed exclusive temporary road use agreement with the surrounding ranch that gives the Purchaser permission to use the roads to conduct logging operations on Sections

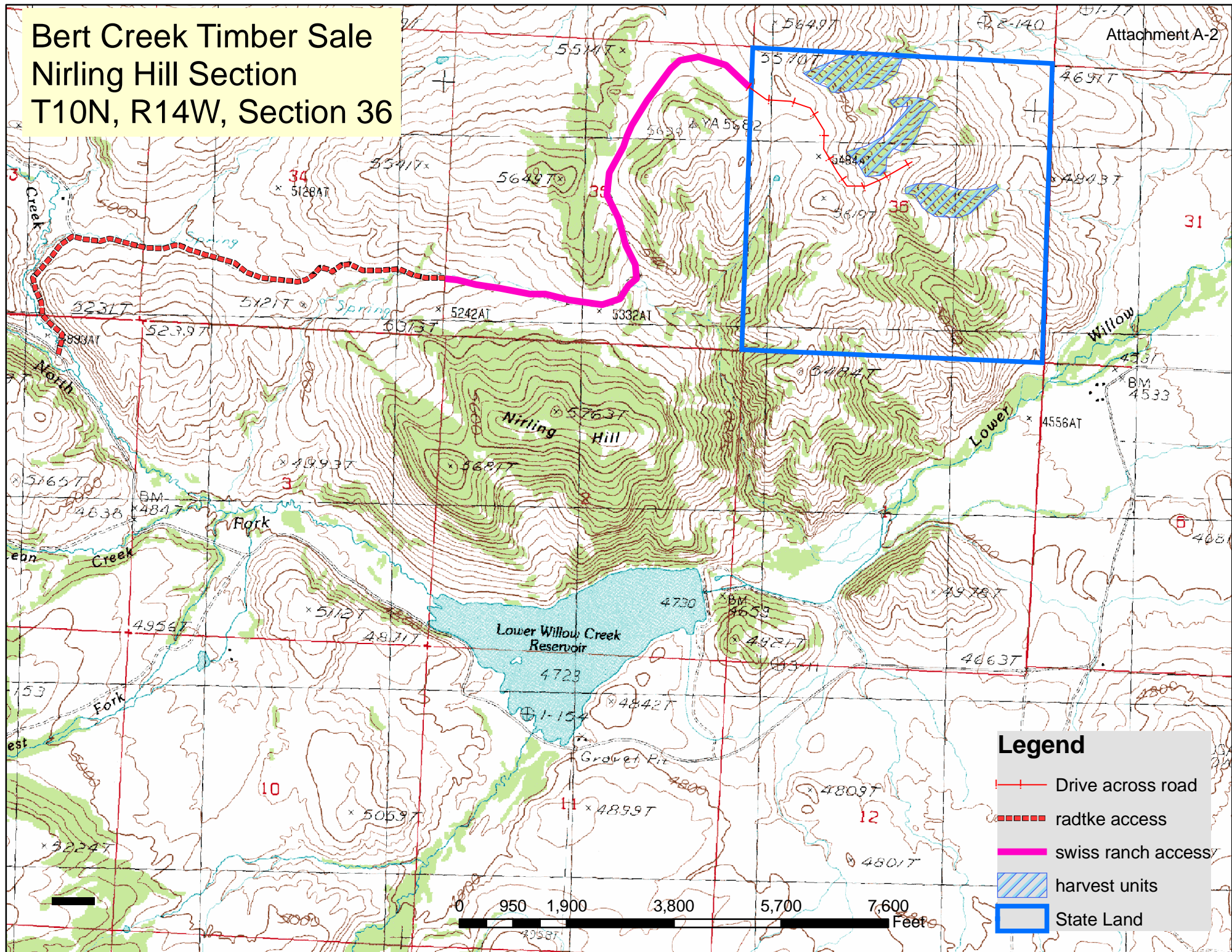
36, T10N, R14W and T11N, R12W. The Purchaser would be solely responsible for all haul fees and maintenance on the roads covered by the temporary road use agreement.

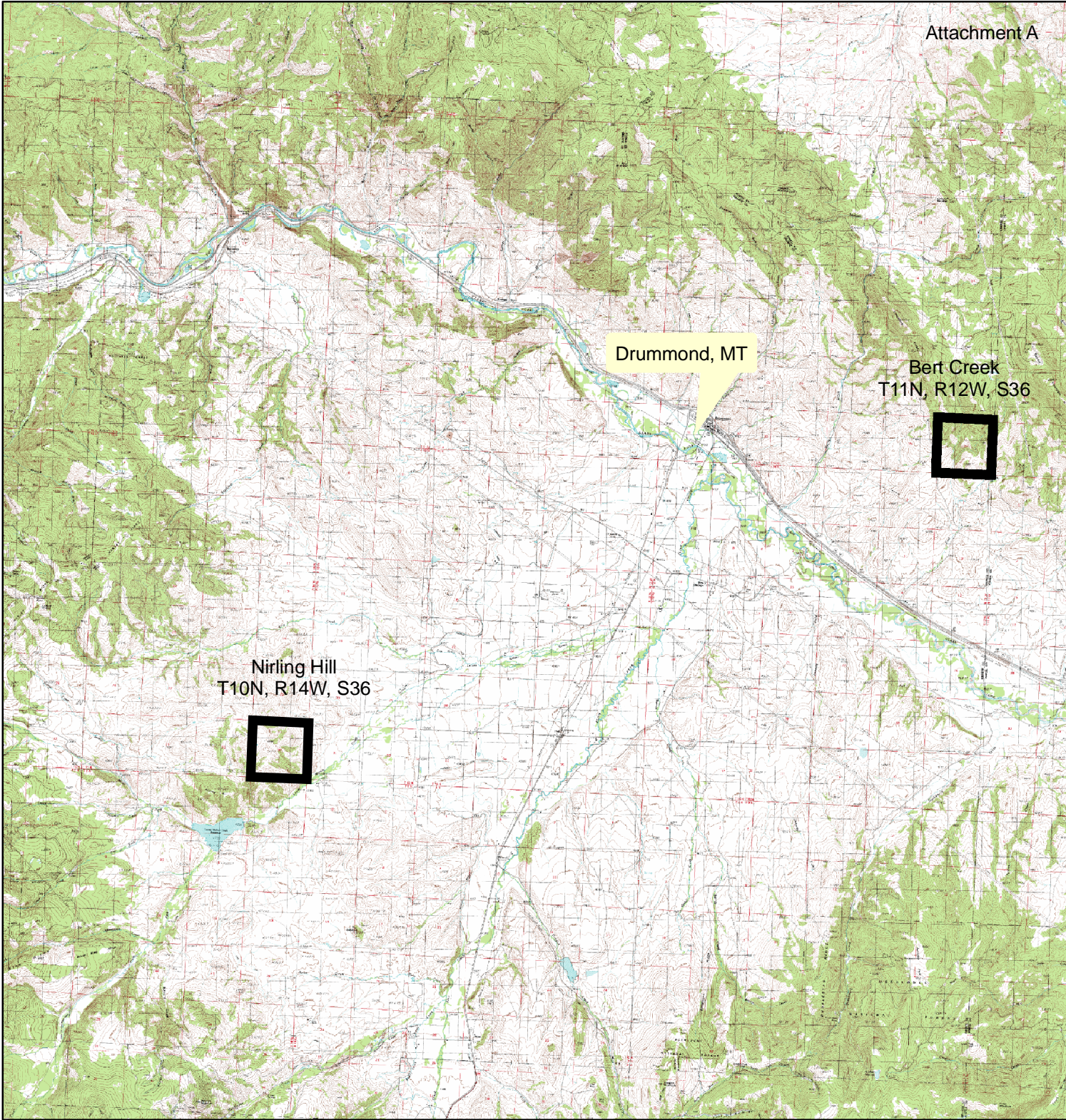
- **Grazing Lease** - The grazing lease for Section 36, T11N, R12W is held by the same ranch that has agreed to grant access for logging operations. The Grazing Lease for Section 36, T10N, R14W is held by the Swiss Ranching Corporation. They have also granted the DNRC temporary easement to facilitate this timber sale.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Bert Creek Limited Access Timber Sale.

Bert Creek Timber Sale
Nirling Hill Section
T10N, R14W, Section 36

Attachment A-2

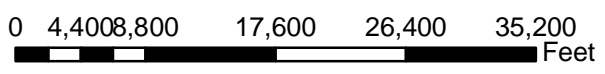


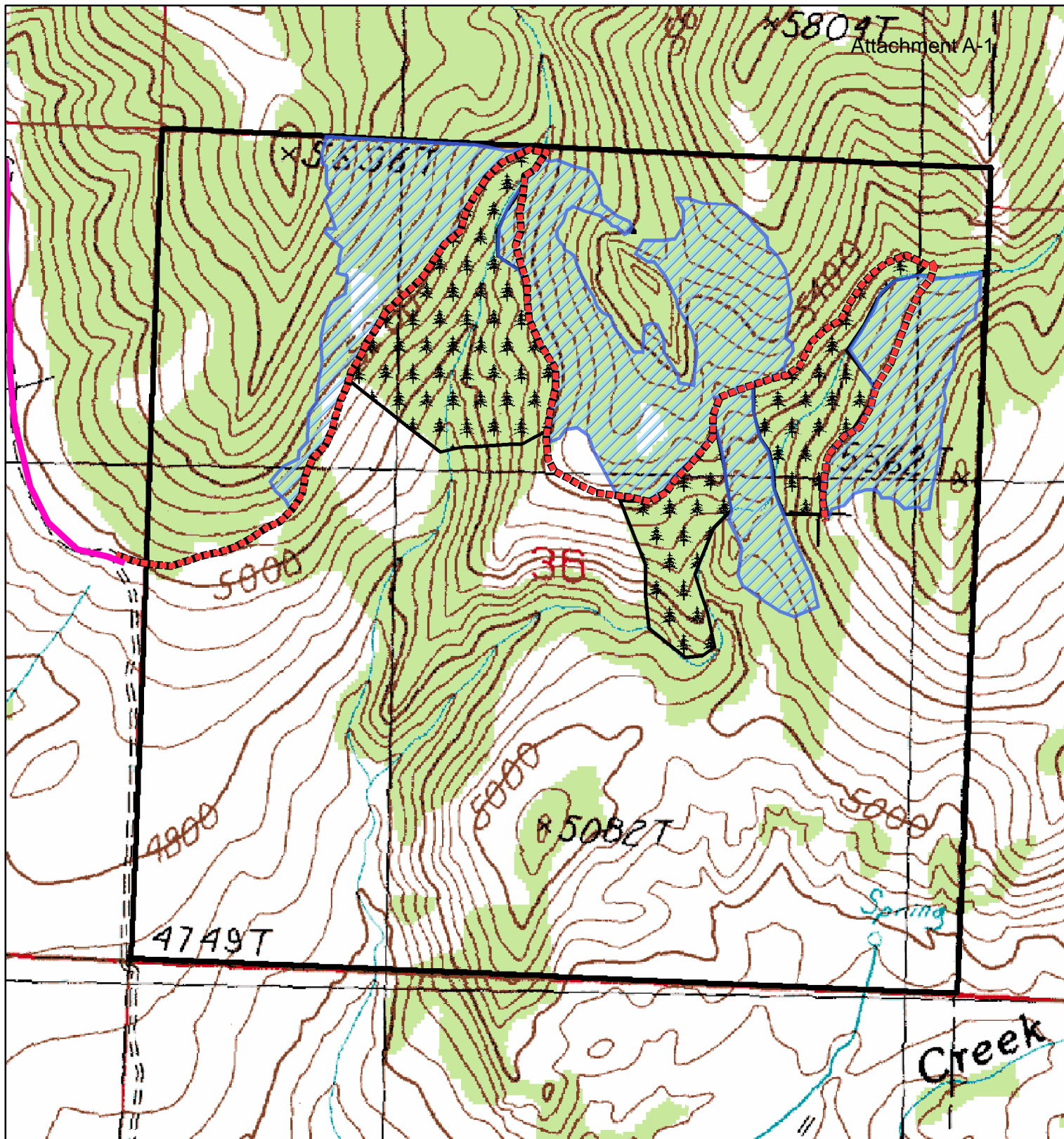


Bert Creek Timber Sale Vicinity Map

Legend

 state land





Legend

- Access Road
- - - New Road
- Skidder
- ⌘ ⌘ Cable
- State Land

Bert Creek Timber Sale T11N, R12W, Section 36

